

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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Vol. 55, No. 13 **TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, TOBYHANNA, PA.** **(WWW.TOBYHANNA.ARMY.MIL)** **AUGUST 11, 2011**

News Notes

Help celebrate anniversaries

Personnel are invited to help mark two milestones in Army history here.

Bring photos and documents related to the Army’s presence at Tobyhanna over the last century to the Information Management Directorate’s graphics office. The originals will be scanned and returned. Employees must obtain supervisory approval and call X57743 to schedule an appointment.

In 2012, Tobyhanna will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Army’s arrival, when the area was first used as an Army field artillery training site.

In 2013, Tobyhanna will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the opening of Tobyhanna Signal Depot, which occurred Feb. 1, 1953.

Tee it up with Tobyhanna

The Tobyhanna Army Depot 14th Annual Commander’s Cup Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sept 6 at Skytop Lodge.

There will be a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Teams of four must sign up by noon on Aug. 26. The cost is \$340 and covers the cart, green fees and prizes. There will be a welcome reception, buffet luncheon and refreshments.

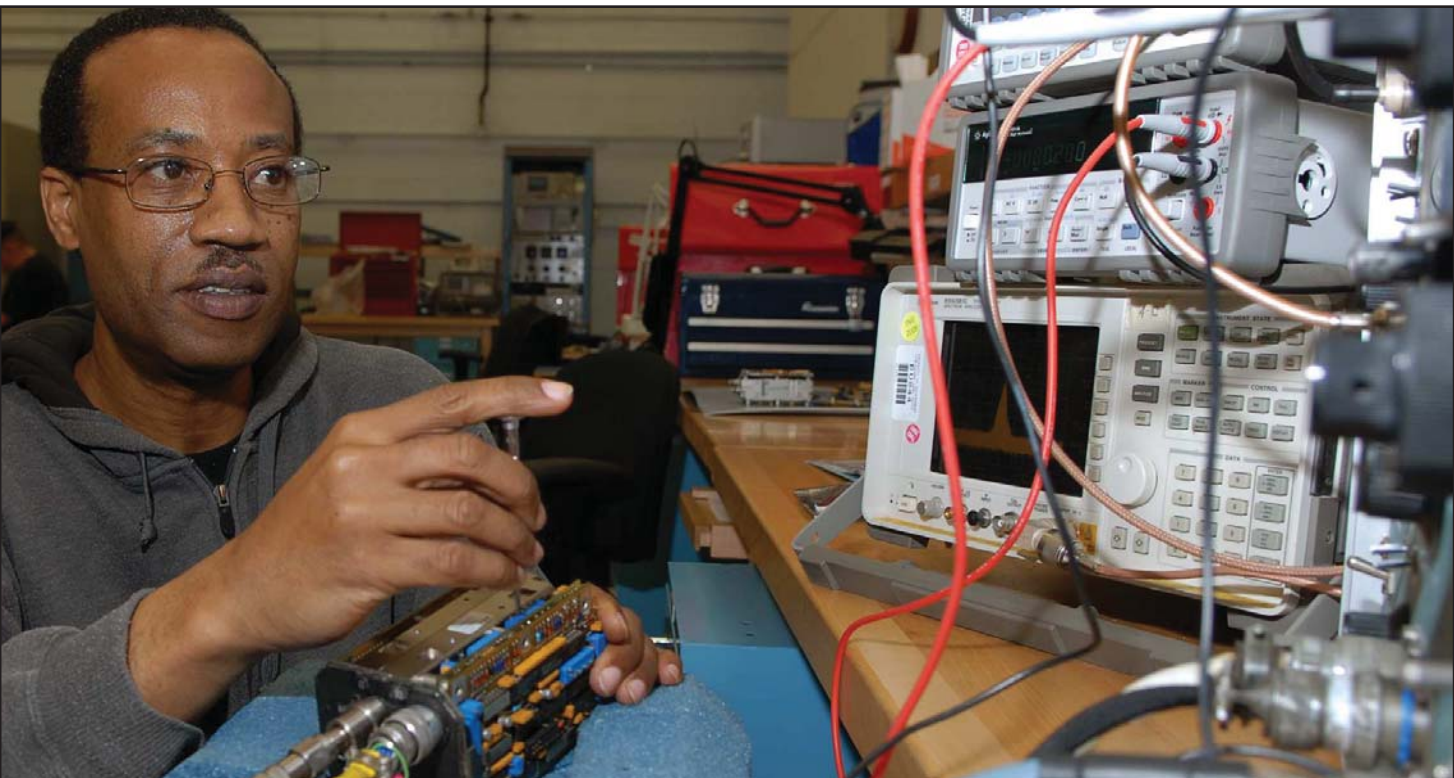
Participants must be current or retired depot employees, or active-duty or retired military members to be eligible to win the cup. For more information, call Jason Menago, at 5-9968, Pat Mirabelle at 5-6598, or Bryan Ranallo at 5-7639.

Phone access codes changed

Effective August 1, the access code for the Defense Switched Network (DSN) is 94 instead of 88. The access code for commercial calls is 99 instead of 9. To access commercial numbers outside of the 570 area code, dial 99–1–area code–number. For further information, call Service Desk, X56677.

Yankees tickets available

The One Stop Shop has tickets for all Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankee home games. Seats are located in section 123, row L, seats one through eight. Tickets are \$7, a 50 percent discount.



Abe May, electronics mechanic, performs an analog adjustment for the AN/APN-209 radar altimeter. May works in the Airborne Communications/Instrument Branch, part of the Command, Control and Computers/Avionics Directorate. The branch is one of several depot organizations that have earned certification in Aerospace Standard 9100/9110. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

Depot achieves Aerospace Standard

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

Tobyhanna Army Depot just joined an elite group of public and government organizations that have earned certification in internationally recognized standards for quality.

Tobyhanna is the first military installation and third organization of any type in the world to achieve certification to both Aerospace Standard (AS) 9100 Revision C and AS9110 Revision A, says Larry Bulanda, Quality Management Division (QMD) chief.

AS9100C, titled Quality Management System – Requirements for Aviation, Space and Defense Organizations, and AS9110A, titled Quality Management Systems – Requirements for Aviation Maintenance Organizations, were developed with input from aerospace personnel from the Americas, Asia/Pacific and Europe.

On July 6, the depot was notified by NSF, the depot’s ISO/AS registrar, that AS 9100C and 9110A had been granted.

The AS9100/9110 certification signifies

the depot’s commitment to meet or exceed increasingly stringent industry requirements as a world-class supplier of defense systems and related products to civil and military markets, according to Quality Management Division (QMD) officials. The division is part of the Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate.

“Companies and other private and government public organizations here and abroad require AS certification before they will consider doing business with another organization,” Bulanda said.

The depot was audited by AS officials in July. Rimas Bildusas, a senior quality assurance specialist in QMD, said the four auditors pointed out several strengths, including the depot’s experience and expertise in core products.

“They noted that our work force is very knowledgeable and skilled in many areas to accomplish customer requirements, and that depot personnel are committed to a professional work environment,” Bildusas said. “Not only are the work areas organized and refined by Lean events and

6S audits, but continual improvement to enhance operations was evident from on-going upgrades.”

Although the auditors were impressed with depot personnel and operational efficiency, some improvements were made to earn certification.

“During the preparation period, there were a lot of questions on requirements and processes that did not have established answers; there were many mid-process changes as they became available,” said Paul Sumski, Multipurpose Cable fabrication Branch, Electronic Assembly Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate. “Everyone worked hard to help achieve certification. Everyone became aware of all the potential good things that certification could bring, such as increased Avionics workload.

“The cost center benefited as a whole by improving efficiency and working together as a team.”

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Deaf students complete work in machine shops

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Soldier honored as warfighter of the quarter

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Around the Depot

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THANK YOU

I have been remiss in my duties in not acknowledging the volunteers who participated in our annual Memorial Day Observance held May 25 at Legends Field:

- My deepest thanks to the Soldiers who proudly carried our national colors and the flags of our military services.
- To Amy Frey who performing our national anthem and Lloyd Fuller who offered our invocation, both very moving moments in the ceremony, thank you.
- My thanks as well to depot commander Col. Charles C. Gibson for both his very appropriate remarks that reminded us of the reasons we observe that solemn day, and for his participation in the wreath ceremony.
- Thanks as well to Toya King-John, Tom Salek, Delores Strauss, Linda Sablan, Tony Ferriera, and to Joe Lilik, reader of the names, for their participation in the wreath presentations honoring our nation's war dead, our veterans, and those Tobyhanna employees who passed away during the past year.
- To Lt. Jim Vones and his weapons detail volunteers for the honor salute, thank you. They have always answered the call.
- A special thank you goes to my friend Shelly Sherman for ending the ceremony with the haunting notes of Taps. Shelly has supported our efforts for more than 10 years now.

The 150th anniversary of the origin of Taps will be celebrated in 2012. The 24 notes in Taps signal the end of the duty day at every military installation. But more importantly, they signal a final farewell to those who honorably and proudly served our great nation.

Our next event will be the annual National POW/ MIA Remembrance Day ceremony in September at the Tobyhanna POW/MIA Memorial across the street from the Tobyhanna Veterans Park, near The Landing.

Les Sharp
President, Tobyhanna Veterans Council

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Meeting our fiscal, national security responsibility



by Hon. Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense

To all Department of Defense personnel:

As I begin my second month in office as Secretary of Defense, I wanted to take the opportunity to share my thinking with you on one of the key challenges we face as a Department: how to ensure that our military has everything it needs to protect our national security at a time of considerable fiscal challenge in our country.

I know that many of you have been watching with concern the deficit reduction negotiations in Washington. As President Obama has said, our growing national debt, if not addressed, will imperil our prosperity, hurt our credibility and influence around the world, and ultimately put our national security at risk. As part of the nation's efforts to get its finances in order, defense spending will be, and I believe it must be, part of the solution.

The reductions in defense spending that will take place as a result of the debt ceiling agreement reached by Congress and the President are in line with what this Department's civilian and military leaders were anticipating, and I believe we can implement these reductions while maintaining the excellence of our military. But to do that, spending choices must be based on sound strategy and policy. In the past, such as after the Vietnam War, our government applied cuts to defense across the board, resulting in a force that was undersized and

underfunded relative to its missions and responsibilities. This process has historically led to outcomes that weaken rather than strengthen our national security - and which ultimately cost our nation more when it must quickly rearm to confront new threats.

I am determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past. In order to make the key decisions on how to best implement spending reductions, the President said in April when he unveiled his fiscal framework that "we're going to have to conduct a fundamental review of America's missions, capabilities and our role in a changing world." As a Department, we are following that approach. We are asking ourselves: What are the essential missions our military must do to protect America and our way of life? What are the risks of the strategic choices we make? And what are the financial costs?

Achieving savings based on sound national security policy will serve our nation's interests, and will also prove more enforceable and sustainable over the long-term.

"You - the men and women of the military - have never said 'I can't do it.' Nor have the civilians who support you. That is the military ethos - to salute and press on."

Hon. Leon E. Panetta

We expect that the responsible transitions in Iraq and Afghanistan will help reduce total U.S. defense spending over the coming years. But I will do everything I can to ensure that further reductions in defense spending are not pursued in a hasty, ill-conceived way that would undermine the military's ability to protect America and its vital interests around the globe. For example, the debt ceiling agreement contains a sequester mechanism that would take effect if Congress fails to enact further deficit reduction. If that happens, it could trigger a round of dangerous across-the-board defense cuts that would do real damage to our security, our troops

and their families, and our ability to protect the nation. This potential deep cut in defense spending is not meant as policy. Rather, it is designed to be unpalatable to spur responsible, balanced deficit reduction and avoid misguided cuts to our security.

Indeed, this outcome would be completely unacceptable to me as Secretary of Defense, the President, and to our nation's leaders. That's because we live in a world where terrorist networks threaten us daily, rogue nations seek to develop dangerous weapons and rising powers watch to see if America will lose its edge. The United States must be able to protect our core national security interests with an adaptable force capable and ready to meet these threats and deter adversaries that would put those interests at risk. I will do all I can to assist the Administration and congressional leaders to make the commonsense cuts needed to avoid this sequester mechanism.

Our military has always taken on and succeeded in every mission it has been assigned - from the efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at home and abroad. You - the men and women of the military - have never said "I can't do it." Nor have the civilians who support you. That is the military ethos - to salute and press on. The ethos of this nation's leaders and policy makers must be to ensure that the missions assigned to the military meet critical national security priorities. It is our responsibility to determine those priorities and to ensure that you will always have the training and equipment to succeed in those missions.

I am aware that as Washington discusses strategy and policy, you and your families are discussing the implications of decisions that may be made. I promised in my first message as Secretary that I will fight for you. That means I will fight for you and your families as we face these budget challenges.

The force has been stretched by a decade of combat. We owe you and

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TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, biweekly publication for members of the Department of Defense.

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TEAM
TOBYHANNA

EXCELLENCE IN
ELECTRONICS



Omar Oregel, left, and Clayton Marr work on Joint Platform Tablet Computers used in the production of Blue Force Tracking systems. (Photo by Steve Grzezdzinski).

Deaf students learn, teach valuable lessons

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

William Brown, Louis Cordi, Clayton Marr and Omar Oregel recently completed a 10-week internship as machine tool operators in the System Integrations Support (SIS) Directorate’s Sheet Metal Fabrication and Machining Branches. Anyone watching them interact with one another would think they are longtime friends or members of the same family – finishing each other’s sentences and joking around.

In fact, they come from different parts of the country and have only known each other for three years or so. Brown, from Guntersville, Ala.; Cordi, from Beachwood, N.J.; Marr, from Westbrook, Maine; and Oregel, from Santa Ana, Calif., are all students at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). They are also all profoundly deaf.

Each of the four students was born deaf. Marr was born into a deaf

family whereas Brown is the only deaf person in his. Oregel has two deaf sisters. Despite not being able to hear from birth, Cordi insists it has made each of them more observant and detail-oriented.

“I believe that deaf individuals are more visually-attentive than people who can hear,” he said. “They are more hands on with the things they do. We see things differently than other people.”

The four students attend RIT’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Their curriculum requires a cooperative internship to help students gain real-world experience alongside a mentor.

“The program helps us to determine if this is the career path we would like to pursue in the future,” Oregel added.

The group is animated, energetic and has been enthusiastic since their first day at the depot. Ronald Reddington, a supervisor in the Machining Branch, noticed the students’ motivation early on.

“They came in with the right attitude and the right work ethic,” he said. “They picked up quickly on everything we showed them and blended in well with the rest of the shop.”

At first, Reddington was not so sure of the students’ abilities and how they would be able to perform.

“I was definitely a little skeptical,” he said. “I was worried about some aspects of the job, especially communication with coworkers.”

Bob Aten, chief of SIS’s Sheet Metal Fabrication Branch, recognized those communication challenges and helped accommodate the students to make them feel at home.

“The depot has several resources for deaf persons, including TTYs (teletypewriters) and an interpreter,” he said. “It’s important for Tobyhanna to show that despite someone’s perceived handicap or disability, they are just like you and me.”

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Days of Caring feature 2 dates, flexible hours

by John Ross
Day of Caring Coordinator

Mark your calendar! On Sept. 1, the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne counties will conduct the 17th annual community-wide Day of caring volunteer event. On Sept. 23, the United Way of Monroe County will conduct it 16th Annual Day of Caring.

Hundreds of volunteers throughout the community will perform various volunteer service projects for the benefit of United Way participating organizations and other non-profit organizations.

Depot personnel can volunteer for whatever time they can spare — two, four or six hours, or a full day. The program is also open to all depot civilian retirees, and all organizations at the depot, including attached and assigned

military and tenant personnel. During the Days of Caring, volunteers work on a variety of projects such as painting, clerical tasks and carpentry. Other volunteers interact with clients served by area agencies.

Last year, more than 3,000 volunteers representing over 150 local businesses in Lackawanna, Wayne and Monroe counties participated in Day of Caring, and we hope to increase the number of businesses this year. We are looking forward to Tobyhanna Army Depot volunteers participating again, which will mark the depot’s 17th year of participating in the Day of Caring program.

The United Way needs to have a complete list of volunteers by close of business on Monday.

Let’s show that great Tobyhanna support and volunteer today! To participate, contact me: X57581, 872–6518 or john.j.ross@us.army.mil.

CFC News

The depot’s annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will begin Sept. 13 with the Chili/Sauce contest. A fall festival, telethon, 50/50 drawing and basket raffles will help kick-off the event.



Last year’s contributions raised over \$270,000 and the 2011 campaign aims to reach \$260,000. This year’s slogan, “Giving today for a better tomorrow,” was submitted by David Lyons, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

The CFC is looking for “Key Persons” from each directorate to help the campaign by distributing and collecting pledge forms within their cost centers. Training sessions will be announced shortly and will be offered to explain the responsibilities of these individuals.

The Chili/Sauce contest will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 13 for first shift and Sept. 14 at 4 a.m. for third shift. The event will take place in Building 1C, Bay 1. Refreshments will be served and prizes will be awarded for the “Best Chili,” “Best Sauce” and the “Best Decorated Booth.”

Those who would like to participate in the contest should contact Janine Yablonski, X57942 or janine.yablonski@us.army.mil. To donate a bake sale item, contact Patsy Simpson, X56443 or patricia.a.simpson@us.army.mil. Cost centers looking to donate a basket for the raffle should contact Beverly Foster, X56920 or beverly.foster@us.army.mil. The basket should have a minimum value of \$25. All inquiries must be received by Sept. 7.

Army announces civilian reductions

by Office of the Chief of Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Army announced August 4 it will reduce the size of its civilian employee workforce by more than 8,700 people by Sept. 30, 2012. These cuts are based on Department of Defense resource decisions as reflected in the fiscal year 2012 President’s Budget and require a reduction of Army civilian employees to comply with decreased funding levels.

The Army has identified more than 30 different commands and agencies affected by these reductions, with nearly 80 percent of the cuts taking place within Installation Management Command, Army Materiel Command, Training and Doctrine Command, and Headquarters, Department of the Army.

“We are in a very challenging fiscal environment and understand the impact these cuts will have on our civilians and their families” said Thomas R. Lamont, assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. “Tough choices have to be made, but we’ll make them in a thoughtful and deliberate manner that best supports the Army’s mission.”

Affected commands and agencies will have 30 days to develop plans to accomplish their civilian workforce reductions, identify organizational and personnel actions to be taken, and develop a timeline for each of the actions and expected reductions.

Commanders will be responsible for shaping their workforce within their allocated budget and may use all available options to achieve reduction objectives while mitigating adverse impact on the workforce. Voluntary Early Retirement Authority, VERA, and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment, or VSIP, may be used to reduce the number of personnel to meet mission objectives.

NCO’s assistance to thousands earns Warfighter of Quarter award

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

A master sergeant’s outstanding service enabled his unit to provide 98,000 Soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians serving in Southwest Asia with reliable, secure voice and data communications.

In recognition of that effort, Master Sgt. Kenneth Aten was presented with the 2011 Warfighter of the Quarter Award, third quarter, by Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong, commander of the U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, depot commander Col. Charles Gibson and depot Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Spencer.

The award is presented each quarter to a Soldier or civilian in recognition of their service and sacrifice in order to reinforce the strength of military personnel in all branches of the Armed Forces. Aten’s award was presented on July 15 in front of Building 11.

“I was honored,” he said. “I did what I thought was necessary in theater to complete the mission. Good Soldiers are those who do what is required of them. Outstanding Soldiers do what is required of them, but they look at their surroundings and see what needs to be done, and they make it happen, not for rewards or praise, but because it is the right thing to do.”

Aten, an electronics mechanic leader in the Wideband Components Branch of the Communications Systems Directorate’s Voice Communications Division, serves as first sergeant of B Company 392nd Signal Battalion, Tobyhanna Army Depot, a unit in the Army Reserve.

Aten served as the Plans and Operations non-commissioned officer in charge for Task Force Raven during the Unit’s 12 month mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. While serving in this position, he was responsible for managing every aspect of the battalions’s wartime mission; to operate, maintain and defend the United States Forces-Iraq (USF-I)



Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong, commander of the U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, presents Master Sgt. Kenneth Aten with the 2011 Tobyhanna Army Depot Warfighter of the Quarter Award, third quarter. With Aten are his wife Andrea and daughter EllaLynn. From right: Depot commander Col. Charles Gibson, Capt. Azukaego Mosley, B Company, 392nd Signal Battalion, Tobyhanna Army Depot, and depot Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Spencer participated in the ceremony. (Photo by Tony Medici)

communications network.

“Master Sgt. Aten’s additional responsibilities included preparing two companies, 225 Soldiers and over 75 tactical communications assets, to support tactical signal operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Army Central Headquarters,” said Maj. Kelvin Whisenhunt, 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion S-3 (Plans and Operations). “Additionally, Master Sgt. Aten defined and architected all operations in support of the Iraqi Freedom Responsible Drawdown of Forces.”

In his nomination, Whisenhunt added that Aten developed the strategy and concept of operations required in order

to deploy elements of the battalion to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, noting that at the end of the reception and staging period, all elements of Task Force Raven assumed their wartime missions seamlessly, primarily attributed to the selfless efforts of Aten and the combination of his excellent work and attention to detail.

“This monumental contribution was critical to the success of the battalion’s inaugural deployment in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom,” Whisenhunt said. “Master Sgt. Aten is to be commended for the inaugural role that he played in the battalion’s mission in support of our nation’s defense and Global War on Terrorism.”

“I love being a Soldier; it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” Aten said. “The military has been one of the two center pillars in my life; I can tie almost everything good that has happened to me to the military.”

Aten offered this advice to other Soldiers: “Take a look around yourself, see what needs to be fixed and fix it. Don’t just try to meet the standards, try to surpass them. Take pride in your work, and if you make a decision that is wrong, admit to making the wrong choice, and learn from it.”

Personnel of all branches of the Armed Forces are eligible for the Tobyhanna Warfighter of the Quarter Award.

CERTIFICATION from Page 1

Bulanda said there are three standout accomplishments.

“Tool control is one. We worked with John Jastremsky and personnel in the Tool Crib Operations Branch to build hundreds of Process Tool Boxes that were placed in AS shops,” he explained. “This gives the technicians in those shops improved tool control, helping to eliminate potential foreign object damage (FOD) from loose tools.”

“I was temporary supervisor [of the Navigation Branch] at the time of audit,” said Chester Schultz, Avionics Division, Command Control and Computer Systems/Avionics Directorate. “We were fortunate to be in the Depot Maintenance of the Future and already started to implement most of the 9110 practices. We increased the number of personnel entering data into the LMP (Logistics Modernization Program) data base, including parts used and work done. And we increased awareness to FOD and ESD [electro static discharge].

“The branch now has more control over parts, and awareness to counterfeit parts. I couldn’t be more proud of how the employees handled the audit, and the cooperation with getting prepared. They displayed a positive attitude towards the future of the depot.”

Another important accomplishment was the development of the FOD program. FOD is basically loose equipment or other objects that may damage equipment if not stored or disposed of correctly. QMD personnel in conjunction with

Information Management personnel developed a voice over slide show and hands on training to identify and eliminate FOD problem areas. American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 1647 assisted with the implementation of depot Regulation 702-23 Foreign Object Debris and Foreign Object Damage Prevention, Control, Awareness Program and Tool Control, which governs the program. And FOD posters were distributed around the depot to further raise awareness.

“We established standard tool boxes in our branch and technicians are paying more attention to FOD and prevention,” said Carol Kubilus, chief of the Satellite Systems Support Branch, Electronic Assembly Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate. “All team members, both federal and contractor, came together as one team and worked side by side to meet or exceed all requirements set forth by AS9100/ 9110.”

The third standout is the development and implementation of the Qualified Task Listing, or QTL, Form ELTY-6251, a document that meets the AS requirement to have a record of an employee’s qualifications to perform assigned tasks.

“The QTL is like a resume,” Bildusas said. “It is a record of an employee’s education, training, skills and experience. If a branch needs help, the supervisor can access QTLs to identify employees from other shops who are qualified in

that branch’s mission. One important note is that QTLs are not used to rate performance, only what an employee is qualified in.”

Bulanda and Bildusas noted that there were several other achievements made by personnel and organizations across the depot.

“Obtaining AS certification is a big accomplishment by the total depot team,” said Brad Jones, director of Productivity Improvement and Innovation. “Almost every part of the depot had a hand in the success. It shows that the quality of work performed by the depot work force meets very rigorous industry expectations.”

“Now that we’ve earned certification, we can’t just put it on a shelf and pull it out whenever we want to impress customers; sustainment is very important,” Bildusas said. “We will continue to meet with shops personnel to maintain our certification, but the bulk of sustainment will be handed over to the shops. From now on, there will be regularly scheduled audits and AS officials publish a list of organizations that no longer maintain the high level of quality needed to stay certified.”

To maintain a this level of excellence, sustainment teams will meet monthly to review the AS standard, which is available for employees to view on the Quality page of the intranet.

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

AROUND THE DEPOT



Richard Zuraski, machinist, sets up a Bridgeport Milling Machine to repair a Humvee bracket.



Harold Wright, machinist, uses precision measuring equipment to check a curbside wall support bracket for Electronic Shelters and Vans.



Photos by Steve Grzezdinski



Bernie Vincavage, machine tool operator, works on a 65k psi water jet to profile parts for Blue Force Tracking systems.



Mike Wolfe, machine tool operator, enters data into a Computer Numeric Controlled machine to set up for a production run of parts.

Machining Branch
Systems Integration and
Support Directorate

The Machining Branch uses Computer Numeric Controlled (CNC) Machines and Conventional Machines to perform milling, drilling, tapping, and boring operations for the production of metal parts used in many systems, including Firefinder, Blue Force Tracking, Electronic Shelters and Vans, Program Manager Counter Remote Controlled Improvised Explosive Device, and the Night Vision Helmet Bracket Assembly.

The branch uses many state-of-the-art machines, including two CNC water jets, 13 CNC milling centers, four CNC lathes, two high-tech saws and eight other conventional machines.



Charles Grega, machinist, selects the proper tool holder for a Vertical Milling Center.



Robert Wydro, rubber mold technician, sets up a mold for a large cable assembly.

Biodegradable HAZMAT containers meet U.N. standards

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

The Logistics Support Activity (LOGSA) Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center (PSCC), a tenant activity at Tobyhanna Army Depot, recently completed testing on an eco-friendly fiberboard hazardous material (HAZMAT) container.

The 55-gallon drum, a reusable, recyclable and biodegradable alternative to steel and plastic containers, was subjected to a wide range of tests in order to meet United Nations (U.N.) standards intended for transportation of hazardous materials.

“Performance testing allows you to think outside the box and come up with new packages,” said Charlotte Lent, HAZMAT Testing Team Leader, LOGSA PSCC. “This

package happens to be one of them.”

The primary U.N. HAZMAT packaging standard that provides guidance for testing procedures is ASTM D 4919, Standard Guide for Testing of Hazardous Materials Packagings. Listed in the guide are recommended specialized test methods such as, ASTM D 999, Test Methods for Vibration Testing of Shipping Containers, ASTM D 5276, Test Method for Drop Test of Loaded Containers by Free Fall, and ASTM D 4577, Test Method for Compression Resistance of a Container Under Constant Load. The test parameters for these tests are defined in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

HAZMAT certification testing is the final step in the development of a new container. Another evaluation options is ASTM D 4169, Standard Practice for Performance Testing

of Shipping Containers and Systems.

ASTM D 4169 provides a uniform basis of evaluating, in a laboratory, the ability of shipping units to withstand the distribution environment. This is accomplished by subjecting them to a test plan consisting of a sequence of anticipated hazard elements encountered in various distribution cycles. The biodegradable HAZMAT packaging has yet to be tested to D 4169 standards.

“All the tests we have done so far have been related to transportation,” said Andrew Gesford, project test engineer, LOGSA PSCC. “The fiberboard drums can be used wherever you want to possibly consider replacing plastic or steel drums.”

The nearly 20,000 square-foot facility can perform a large number of environmental and durability tests to meet these standards. Most of the tests involve subjecting the packaging to environmental extremes. The packaging center has several temperature chambers that can simulate temperatures anywhere from minus 77 degrees to 133 degrees Celsius. An altitude chamber replicates pressure levels up to 100,000 feet. Salt fog cabinets, ultra-violet light and condensation tests, and a rain room all help mimic real-world weather conditions. Although similar testing may occur in each of the four PSCC labs, each area has a distinct function.

PSCC has not yet tested fiberboard drums to all of these standards, but they have proven to meet U.N. HAZMAT packaging transportation standards.

U.N. Hazmat testing consists of several durability tests including one-hour transportation vibration, drops onto the top edge and flat side from four feet, 24-hour compression, puncture, abrasion and water resistanc. The fiberboard packaging performed at the same level as less eco-friendly plastic and steel drums.

“The fiberboard packaging passed all the

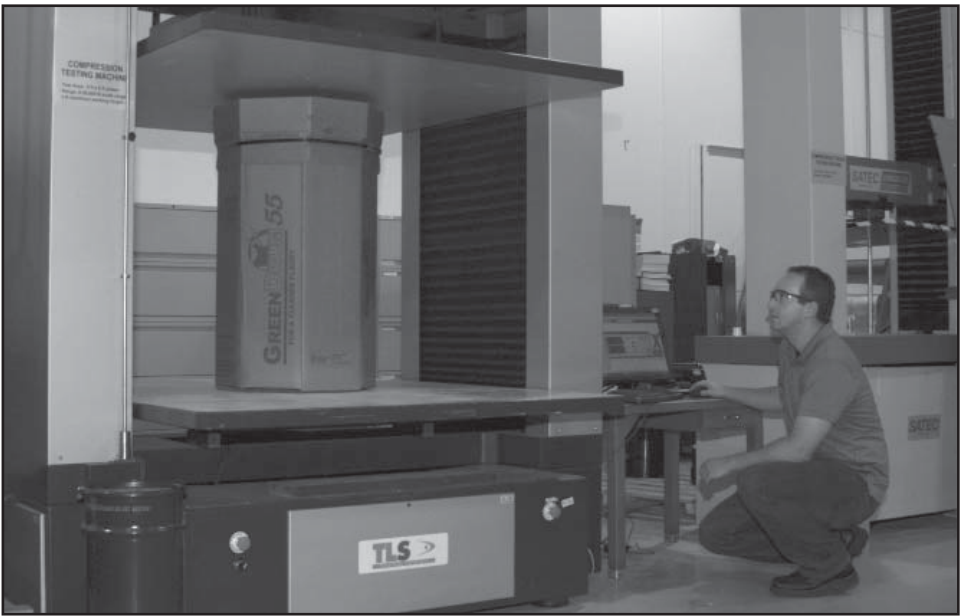
same test parameters that we would normally put on a plastic or a steel drum,” said Andrew Gesford. He added that fiberboard containers are made of 35 percent recycled corrugated fiber and are less expensive to manufacture than plastic and steel drums. They can also be broken down flat to increase storage space and reusability.

Nathan Edwards, chief of the Industrial Risk Management Directorate’s Environmental Management Division, says successful testing has opened the door for the implementation of fiberboard drums at the depot.

“The depot evaluates products to ensure they are environmentally friendly and also cost-effective to our business operations,” says Edwards. “We would support any initiative that meets those criteria and helps reduce Tobyhanna Army Depot’s impact on the environment and natural resources.”

PSCC is designated as the Department of the Army’s focal point for several standards, including JR TM38-250, Preparing Hazardous Materials for Military Air Shipment; TM 38-410, Storage and Handling of Hazardous Materials; AR 700-143, Packaging of Hazardous Materials, and Army Materiel Command’s Defense Transportation Regulation on Hazardous Materials. LOGSA’s Packaging Applications Testing Facility is the only Department of Defense testing facility that has the certification of the International Safe Transit Association.

Testing equipment and methods are continually being upgraded to meet the demands of the ever-changing technology in the development of new packaging materials and processes, says Lent. She added that with more organizations, programs and process looking toward a green future, Tobyhanna Army Depot has another environmentally friendly option with the help of fiberboard packaging.



Andrew Gesford, a HAZMAT test engineer in the Logistics Support Activity’s Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center, tests a 55–gallon fiberboard hazardous material container in a Compression Test Machine. Gesford tests containers for 24 hours to find out if they can be stacked 10 feet high loaded to capacity weight, about 500 pounds for each container. (Photo by Justin Eimers)

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor’s Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Anthony.Ricchiazzi@us.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section. Voluntary submission of items constitutes individual’s consent to publish personal information all versions of the *Tobyhanna Reporter*.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer’s responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin. For information, call Anthony Ricchiazzi, X57557.



VAN/CAR POOLS

Dallas: 1 opening, van, “A” placard, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., route includes Dallas, Shavertown, Luzerne, Wilkes-Barre, traveling I-81 North to I-380. Call Ralph Szalkowski, X59559 or Roy Fulkersin, X57230.

Carbondale: 2 openings, Jermyn, Mayfield, Childs, and Carbondale area. Pick up locations are house to house except in Childs where people can meet at the Park & Ride, depart between 5:45 to 5:50 a.m., non smoking, rotate driving, “A”

placard. Call John, X57581 or John, X58676 or 909-6243 after work.

Hawley, Hamlin, Sterling: 5/4/9, runs both Fridays, non-smoking, contact Bruce Lassley, bruce.lassley@us.army.mil or X56427/7343.

Ashley, White Haven: 3 openings, van, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., “A” placard, pick up locations at Ashley Park & Ride, call Lance at X57494 or Amanda at X56300.

Throop: Looking for a van, 5/4/9, first RDO, already enrolled with vouchers, contact Bernard, X56883 or bernard.j.pasko@us.army.mil.

Wilkes-Barre: 2 openings, van, 5/4/9, both RDOs, departs from Sam’s Club at 5:45 a.m. and returns around 5:30 p.m., \$130/month, contact John M. Alden, X59708 or john.alden1@us.army.mil.



TRADING POST

Vehicle: 1998 Toyota Camry LE, 2.2 L, power windows, locks, sunroof, new inspection. Factory serviced, maintained, clean, dependable, \$5,200, call Jeff, 876-1353.

Vehicle: 1995 Jeep Wrangler, 4 cylinder, 5-speed manual transmission, hard and soft top and doors included, brand new tires with less than 1,000 miles, brand new stereo system, satellite radio ready, was not used for off-road, asking \$3,500 call 836-5202.

Wheels, Tires: 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee OEM cast wheels, gold trim with center caps and P225/70R15 tires mounted, fits many 1993-1998 Jeep models, one set new, \$150, four sets used in excellent condition, \$125 each, all for \$600, call Mike at 443-0545.

Vehicle: 2006 Infiniti FX35 AWD, black, power heated leather seats, backup camera, Bose premium sound, 6 disc changer, 101,450 miles, \$19,950, call 604-6217 or email tony.bartocci@gmail.com.

Clean Fill (Top Soil): West Scranton, must pick up and haul away yourself, call 241-4679.

Motorcycle: 2009 Kawasaki Vulcan 500, like-new condition, 142 miles, garage kept, \$4,500 OBO, call 233-0988 or 401-7610.

Vehicle: 1996 Chevrolet Lumina, 3.1L, automatic, 111,000 miles, clean car fax, maintained, clean and dependable, \$2,600, call Jeff, 876-1353.

Motorcycles: 2 Yamaha, 2005 Classic, 300 miles, lots of chrome, like new, \$3,700 and a 2006 Custom, 300 miles, \$3,800, or \$7,000 for both, call Robert, 269-2466.

Bicycles: Mountain bike, TREK Fuel EX5, Lg/19.5 inches/49.5 cm, asking \$1,050 OBO, and a Lemond Buenos Aries 53 cm, carbon frame/fork, road bike, \$1,150 OBO, call Brian, 610-577-5715.

CAREER MILESTONE



From left, depot commander Col. Charles C. Gibson, Douglas French, Kathy Sobolak, George Uhrin and depot Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Spencer attend the Length of Service ceremony held July 27.

Three Tobyhanna employees were recognized for their years of government service during the July 27 Length of Service Ceremony.

Douglas French — 40 years, integrated systems technician, GCA/Sensors Branch, Air Traffic Control Division, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

Kathy Sobolak — 30 years, supply technician, Wholesale Logistics Management Branch, Communications Security Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

George Uhrin — 30 years, tactical equipment mechanic, Tactical Vehicle Branch, Integration Support Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

In addition to service certificates and pins, employees with 30 years of service receive a framed American Flag that includes a photo of the depot signed by their coworkers.

Honorees who attend the Length of Service Ceremony also receive a four-hour time-off award. Depot commander Col. Charles C. Gibson and depot Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Spencer presented the awards.

NEW SUPERVISOR

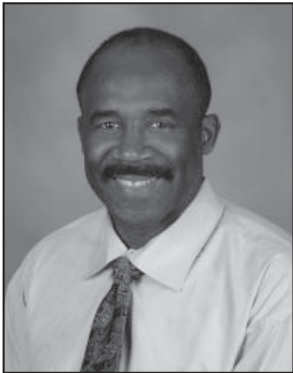
Kenneth Barrett is chief of the Database and Application Branch, Directorate of Information Management (DOIM).

As chief he directs, coordinates and oversees database administration. Barrett provides technical advice, problem solving and guidance to the DOIM staff. He also monitors and provides oversight for individual project activities for the group. Prior to his current position, he worked as Information Technology Supervisor for the Michigan Department of Corrections and Attorney General of the state of Michigan.

Barrett is a 1975 graduate of Detroit Northwestern High School. He earned an Associate's Degree in Computer and Data Processing from Wayne County Community College.

He served for three years in the Reserves and another three years in the Army, where he worked as a supply clerk for U.S. Army stock control and handling.

Barrett is a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. His hobbies include traveling, running, reading, and playing basketball and golf.



Barrett

SECURITY from Page 2

your families the support you have earned - both on the battlefield and on the home front. To be sure, the current budget constraints will make it all the more challenging to modernize and recapitalize the force. Platforms from the build-up of the 1980s are reaching the end of their shelf life and must be replaced, and units and equipment that have been stressed by a decade of combat must be reset. Going forward, we must ensure that the military gets the effective and affordable weapons it needs by redoubling our efforts to enforce procurement discipline.

We also must continue to tackle wasteful and duplicative spending, and overhead staffing. We must be accountable to the American people for what we spend, where we spend it and with what result. While we have reasonable controls over much of our budgetary information, it is unacceptable to me that the Department of Defense cannot produce a financial statement that passes all financial audit standards. That will change. I have directed that this requirement be put in place as soon as possible. America deserves nothing less.

The United States faces a series of tough choices ahead on the budget as we seek to balance the need for fiscal solvency with the need to protect our security. We can - and must - address the budget and protect the country. As we do, we will be guided by the principle that we will do what's right for our nation now and for its future. By better aligning our resources with our priorities, this Department can lead the way in moving towards a more disciplined defense budget. Only in that way can we ensure that we fulfill the fundamental duty for those of us in public service - which is to do everything we can to give future generations of Americans a better and safer life.

STUDENTS from Page 3

For 10 weeks the students were instructed the on proper use of various machines. They worked on helmet brackets, the milling machine, punch press, spot welding...

"...and the laser," Cordi added, verbally.

After learning how to use the machines and figuring out the processes within each shop area, the students were tested and challenged to perform on a daily basis. One of the most difficult challenges the group had to overcome was the expectations of those around them.

"I really don't mind what people think about the deaf and what we can do," said Brown. "All that matters is that you show your skills regardless of what people think."

Cordi noticed that people are sometimes hesitant to interact with deaf individuals.

"It seems like people are a little less willing to converse with us because of the communication barrier," he said. "They usually just say 'good job' instead of speaking their mind because it's difficult to tell sometimes."

When the students first came to the depot for in-processing, they were instructed with the assistance of an interpreter, Shannon Reyes. Reyes also signed for the students during their day-long New Employee Orientation, weekly home team meetings and out-processing. Additionally, the students communicated through lip-reading and

writing back and forth. Reyes says her involvement all depends on the needs of the student and the shop.

"If the content is complex, requiring more than simply writing back and forth, I would then assist with communication," she said.

Helping the students communicate with other depot employees is not only a challenge for the students, but for Reyes as well.

"Many people don't realize that interpreting is not only physically demanding but it's more mentally challenging than anything," she said. "I'm taking what the hearing person is saying, translating it into American Sign Language, which is very different from English, and producing it on my hands. Then I do the opposite to translate what the students are saying."

Reyes's guidance helped the students adjust to a difficult work schedule in a new environment.

"There really are no normal days in the shop area," said Aten. "The students were exposed to different work centers on a day-to-day basis. They did everything that the other guys in the shop would do."

Reddington commends their performance and feels they would be valuable additions to Team Tobyhanna. "They were outstanding," he said. "I'd give them a job right now if I could, I really would."

Working at the depot has taught all of the students that work and life teach

many of the same lessons.

Oregel broke a tool his first day on the job. He learned the importance of being careful and to account for all of the tools he uses.

Marr said that his professor stressed the importance of taking your time and respecting equipment. "Our professor told us that we would break a tool," he said. "He tried to prepare us for when it happened, not if. Now that it has happened to all of us, we are more careful with the equipment." Patience and attentiveness have also both been reinforced by the daily effort to communicate with coworkers.

The students are not the only ones who learned a lesson or two. "The students have taught me that anyone who is properly trained, regardless of ability or disability, can perform a job without any issues," said Reddington. "They can be as successful as they choose to be."

The students all agree that the type of work they performed at the depot is something they would like to make a career out of. "I want to [write] computer programs," said Cordi, "and I think working here has helped me move in that direction."

Marr says that his experience at the depot has helped him push past expectations. "People are unaware of our capabilities and might not give us an equal chance," he said. "Deaf people can be pilots if they want to."

THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP) MONTHLY RATES CHART IS ON THE INTERNET
www.tsp.gov/index.html

To check out how retirement investments are doing, click on the following links:
Returns, Share Prices & Fund Sheets, Current Returns, Monthly Returns, and Individual TSP Funds

EAD 2011

This year's theme was "Celebrating the holidays." Employees welcomed Christmas in July as they played games in Santa's Carnival Area. Proceeds benefitted Operation Santa Claus charities. Other holiday festivities included an Easter Egg Hunt, Monster Mash and Mexican Musical Chairs.

The St. Patrick's Day tent featured Irish Potato Pagash Rolls while the Fourth of July cooks grilled quarter-pound hamburgers, hot dogs and sausage 'n' peppers. Other food items included tacos, German bratwurst, pasta and fresh fruit.

Participants purchased chances to sink depot commander Col. Charles C. Gibson and Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong, commander of the U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, into the dunk tank while Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Spencer emceed part of the event. All-day entertainment was provided by Frankie and the Holiday Seasons.

